

# Washington State Patrol Media Advisory

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date:** August 7, 2006  
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## **Open House At The State Patrol Academy**

The Washington State Patrol is hosting an Academy Open House Event for the public to help increase candidate interest in becoming a State Trooper.

### **Event Information:**

**Date:** August 11, 2006

**Time:** 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Location:** Washington State Patrol Academy  
631 West Dayton Airport Road  
Shelton, WA 98584

**Why:** Law enforcement agencies across the country continue to have difficulty attracting quality candidates to a career in law enforcement. Candidate interests in trooper cadet positions have declined over the past ten years.

The Open House will consist of touring the training facility, a chance to see current cadets undergo scheduled training, an opportunity to try out (operate) some of the latest high-tech law enforcement training equipment at the academy, and the chance to participate in an open forum to have questions answered and testing needs met. Individuals interested in the event should **call 1-800- 888-8384 to make reservations as space is limited.**

Year	Applications Received	% Increase	% Decrease
1995	3072		
1996	3057		.5
1997	2295		33.2
1998	2337	1.8	
1999	1861		25.5

<b>2000</b>	<b>1453</b>		<b>28</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>1448</b>		<b>.3</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>1528</b>	<b>5.5</b>	
<b>2003</b>	<b>938</b>		<b>62.8</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>1215</b>	<b>29.5</b>	
<b>2005</b>	<b>1096</b>		<b>10.8</b>

The Patrol currently employs 1,030 commissioned officers across the State. Of the 1,030 commissioned officers, 817 are troopers. 207 total commissioned officers are eligible for retirement over the next 5 years. Approximately 112 of the 207 commissioned officers eligible for retirement are troopers. In order to keep up with the attrition rate, the agency's goal is to employ 52 new troopers annually for the next 5 years. Unfortunately, the average trooper hire rate for the past 5 years is only 46 troopers annually. Therefore, the State Patrol is trying new creative ways, like the open house event, to generate public interest in becoming part of Washington's finest.

**NOTE:** *Television news media interested in covering this story will be provided video footage of cadets submitting to academy training. Observation rides with troopers is also available. All media is invited to the August 11th event. Sergeant Johnny R. Alexander can be reached at (360) 239-4904 to coordinate media interest.*